



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **Middle East Photo Album, 1933-1943**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB  
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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Call No:** Ph:MEP:1933-1943

**Library catalog ID:** [b2116960](#)

**Record Creator:** N/A

**Collection Title:** Middle East Photo Album 1933-1943.

**Collection Dates:** 1933-1943

**Physical Description:** 1 album (86 photographic prints): black and white; different sizes.

**Language(s):** English

## **Administrative Information**

**Source:** McBlain Books, Hamden, CT 06518, United States.

**Access Restrictions:** No restrictions on access copy.

**Photocopying Restriction:** No Photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

**Preferred Citation:** Middle East Photo Album, 1933-1943, Ph:MEP:1933-1943, Series no., Photo no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## **Scope and Content**

This is 32 cm x 17 cm album includes eighty-six black and white photos mostly sized 9 cm x 6 cm unless otherwise mentioned. Two to four photos are fixed per page with handwritten captions on versos and below. The photos depict views of towns, daily life, occupations, archeological sites, landscape as well as portraits of Bedouins throughout Iraq, (p:2,7,8-10,17,19,20-22), Transjordan (4,12-13,20), Lebanon (p:2,5-7,14-15,23-30), Syria (p:3-4,6,11,14,18) and Palestine (4,14) during the period from 1933 to 1943, with one exceptional shot taken in Maracaibo, Venezuela. The collection includes photos of Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) planes, Euphrates River, Ruins of Umma-Jemmal, Chekka Road and others. The statements on the versos and beneath the photographs were used in description with some explanatory notes added in brackets when needed.

## **Arrangement**

The photograph collection is organized as in the album.

## **Subject Heading**

Ruṭbah (Iraq)

Umm al-Jimāl Site (Jordan).

Iraq Petroleum Company.

‘Anazah (Arab tribe) -- Iraq -- History -- 20th century.

Arab countries -- Description and travel.

Arab countries -- Pictorial works.

Shakkā (Lebanon).

Euphrates River.

Nabk (Syria) -- Social life and customs.

Bedouins -- Middle East -- 1930-1940.

Highway bypasses -- Lebanon.

## **Format**

Photographic prints 1930-1940

## **Container List**

### **Page 1 Iraq**

- An air force plane at Rutbah Forte.
- I.P.C. Plane "Falipe" [A French plane in which the photographer have done a lot of flying].
- Rutbah Forte-Iraq.
- Imperial Airways Plane (I.A.Plane), Rutbah Forte, Iraq. [Imperial Airways used Rutbah, called Rutbah Wells by the British, as a stopover on their Britain-India-Gulf Region routes].

### **Page 2 Lebanon**

- Palestine customs on the Beirut road, 1939.
- The Syrian customs house on the road to Beirut, 1939.

### **Page 3 Syria**

- [18 British soldiers identified individually on back by name and called the 740 Artizan Works Coy. Syria 1943] 24 x16 cm.

### **Page 4 Transjordan-Syria**

- Winnowing corn by throwing it into the sieving.
- The local chaff-cutting machine taken near Homs.
- Building an irrigation water wheel.
- Another view of the chaff-cutting machine. The animals pull the outfit round in circles and the blades do the necessary chaffing.

### **Page 5 Lebanon-Palestine**

- View of Haifa Harbor taken from the top of Mount Carmel.
- The sea and Lebanon with clouds rolling down to them.
- Beirut midnight photograph taken from the balcony of the hotel Shouweiry. The lights of Brumana on the mountain at the look Beirut.
- Jounieh street scene taken on the Beirut Tripoli road. Straight down the road and the mountain a large statue of the Virgin Mary.

### **Page 6 Lebanon-Syria**

- A piece of the Tripoli Beirut road and a village shows in the distance.
- Farewell for the photographer.

- An I.P.C. shovel went over a bridge on the Homs-Tripoli road.
- Too heavily loaded assess near, Homs, Syria.

### **Page 7 Iraq-Lebanon**

- Wadi Huran, Iraq.
- Maracaibo, 1926, Venezuela.
- A view of clouds down Lebanon.
- Jounieh on the Beirut Tripoli road. [Street Scene Haifa, Palestine captioned on the back of the photo]

### **Page 8 Iraq**

- The I.P.C pipe stores yard, Hadithah, 1933.
- One of our heavy transport vehicle.
- A lorry that nearly went over the Wadi Huran.
- Part of the I.P.C. stores. Hadithah-Iraq.

### **Page 9 Iraq**

- Across the Euphrates River, Hadithah
- Another view across the river.
- Across the Euphrates.
- Another view of the river.

### **Page 10 Iraq**

- Fruit stall and tea shop, Hadithah-Iraq.
- One of the carpenters with his Heath Robinson lathe Machine. He holds the chisel on the wood with his left hand and foot while the other he reworks the timbers with a string attached. It is quite successful in practice.
- Camels drinking their fill and they were thirsty, 1933.
- Experimental Lime Kiln in full blast, 1933.

### **Page 11 Syria**

- Bill the pet (vulture), Syria 1943.
- The Eagle T4 Syria 1943.
- The vulture is fond of pecking the button of the coat. Brought as a baby and when the photo was taken he had a wing of 8 feet, Syria 1943.

### **Page 12 Transjordan**

- The outlook tower a beautiful piece of work very well executed Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).
- An interesting doorway, Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).
- Another ruined building Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).

- A solid stone door. The pin hinges are cut out of the same slab of stone and enter into slots at left and bottom of the frame in click the door hinges, Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).

### **Page 13 Transjordania**

- A stone arch in one of the rooms Ruins, Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).
- Another arch point showing a small piece of molded work above it, Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).
- A view of an interior sharing the idea of corbelling the roof, Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal).
- Roman ruins at Umma-Jemal (Umm el-Jimal). The type of construction is most interesting, as everything is made from stones. Doors, roofs as well as the shell.
- The remains of an outside stairway.

### **Page 14 Lebanon-Palestine-Syria**

- A portion of Baalbeck, Lebanon.
- Mary Magdalen's Well Nazareth, Palestine.
- An old Roman Capitol on the top of a hill about 12 miles from Palmyra on the T4 side.

### **Page 15 Lebanon-Syria**

- Hats carriers, Nebik Kara (Nabek Kara, Syria).
- Women carrying water Nebik Kara (Nabek Kara, Syria).
- A view up in the Anti-Lebanon. [Mountains that form most of the border between Lebanon and Syria].
- A native village near Homs, you can see the corm.

### **Page 16**

- A woman with her two sisters. The kiddies were quite geared but agreed to be photographed when promised some "Backshich."
- Bedouin girl with wool yarn.
- Some Bedouin Arabs photographed in their hat.
- Bedouin women inside their tent.

### **Page 17 Iraq**

- The son of the Sheikh of the Anizza (Annazah) Tribe, with two of his bodyguards.
- The future Sheikh of the Anizza (Annazah) Tribe.
- Two of the dearest elite. The youngest is the Sheikh of the Anizza (Annazah).
- Tribe's son, Iraq while the other is a cousin. They are standing in front of the service unit door.

**Page 18 Syria**

- Group of Bedouins, Wadi Huran, 1933.
- Some Bedouin Arabs photographed in their hat Wadi Huran, 1933.
- The male portion of the tribe, 1933.
- Waddi Huran seen in Flood.

**Page 19 Iraq**

- A directions cairn on the dessert, Iraq, 1933.
- Dead sheep died of thirst.
- Baiji Village, Iraq.
- Bodyguards of the Sheikh, Iraq.

**Page 20 Transjordania-Iraq**

- View of Fatha Gorge-Tigris River.
- Village of Sheikh on the border of Transjordania.
- Threshing corn in Transjordania.
- Loaded donkey.

**Page 21 Iraq**

- The crashed Dutch airplane near Rutbah Wells, Christmas 1934.
- Another photo of the crashed plane, 1934.

**Page 22 Iraq-Syria**

- Another view of the water wheel in Rutbah.
- Irrigation water wheel on the River Euphrates.
- The collector's car on the raft near Rutbah.
- The collector's car stuck in sand Wadi Rutkah.

**Page 23 Lebanon**

- General view of Chekka by Pass road Syria built in 100 days (July-October, 1943), 18 x 16 cm.

**Page 24 Lebanon**

- Bridge under construction (Chekka by Pass), 18 x 16 cm.

**Page 25 Lebanon**

- 54 inch deep cut Hamate Road (Chekka by Pass), 18 x 16 cm.

**Page 26 Lebanon**

- Constructing a retaining wall (Chekka by Pass), 18 x 16 cm.

**Page 27 Lebanon**

- Soiling done By Seikh engineers, (Chekka by Pass) 18 x 16 cm.

**Page 28 Lebanon**

- A D8 Bulldozer and 7 Ton Rooter, (Chekka by Pass) 18 x 16 cm.

### **Page 29 Lebanon**

- A D8 Bulldozer and tea sapper on donkey, (Chekka by Pass) 18 x 16 cm.

### **Page 30 Lebanon**

- Moving Rocks, (Chekka by Pass) 18 x 16 cm.

## **Related Material**

### **Books**

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- Musil, A. (1928). *The manners and customs of the Rwala Bedouins*. New York: American Geographical Society. [J 915.3:M98ma:c.1](#)
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- Shanklin, W. M., & Cummins, H. (1937). *Dermatoglyphics in Rwala Bedouins*. Baltimore MD: Johns Hopkins Press. [J 572.956:S528d:c.1](#)